File No. of 1903

190

(Prisons)

Serial Nos. 1–4

Later references.

Pris. 190 of 1903-0

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. 1–4

Part B. for

SUBJECT.

The utility of the finger-print system in connection with the identification of old offenders.

No 1008-J dated the 17th Sept: 1903 (P. 409)
from the I. G. of Prisons.
Submits his opinion re the utility of the finger-print system in connection with the identification of old offenders and reports that it is useless going with the finger-marks till such time as the Police Department shall have trained its officers in their interpretation

No J. 722 dated the 3rd October 1903
to the Inspector General of Pr[isons]
Forwards the above and requests his [opinion] in the matter

report the opinion formed by
Prisons in the matter

No. J. 1011-12 dated the 16th Nov: 1
To the I.Gl. of Prisons and the A
observes that though the wor
system is not yet perfect yet
wanting in utility and the Govt are of
opinion that too much weight cannot
be attached to the maintenance and
development of this important branch of
detective work.

Mysore Govt Secretariat
~~Office of the Dewan of Mysore.~~

File No. (if any)

Directions.

No., date and purport of receipts to be entered in red, and office note in black ink in order of dates.—To be written only on one side, and inside the line of margin.

Office Note.

Branch — Judicial.

Subject — Report regarding (1) the utility or otherwise of the finger-print system in connection with the identification of old offenders, ~~and (2) the existing arrangements for giving juveniles some useful instruction~~.

In reviewing the Jail Administration Report for the Calendar year 1902, Government called for suggestions from the Inspector General of Police and Prisons for improvement in the working of the finger-print system which has been stated by the Inspector General of Prisons to be of not much use, and (2) a report as to the arrangements existing in the Jails for giving juvenile some useful instruction.

This is a separate subject, & to be dealt with separately.
X.11.03

As regards No. 1 the Inspector General of Prisons has called for information that the use of finger

marks is not understood in the Police Depart-
-ment and that it is useless to go on with
the system till such time as the Police
Department shall have trained its officials
in their interpretation.

[The Superintendent of the Mysore jail
suggested the adoption of the system of
tattooing the backs of old offenders with some
marks, which was not agreed to by the
Inspector General of Prisons].

The Inspector General of Police on the
other hand reports that the Police are
sufficiently well trained for taking finger
impressions since the slips received from the
Districts are in no way open to question,
that they need not know the technicalities
for tracing, as there is a trained Establish-
-ment attached to his office where all the
classifying and tracing work is done, that
in course of time we may require a larger
number of hands to work out the Depart-
-ment and that the opinion formed by

the

this offy. Inspector General of Prisons has been done hastily without making proper enquiries. We add that the finger impressions of prisoners are the most important records for the Police Dept and that while this branch of work is being developed to perfection in all the British Dts our State should not be behind hand in the matter.

Submitted for orders

4/11/03

Mr Narain's opinion seems the more correct one. A draft is put up for approval. [If Cavalcade to Govt, the last para all but the last para may be omitted.]

4.11.03

I think the whole lot — a slight verbal alteration I have made may be retained.

5/11/3

I agree to the draft I have suggested a few verbal alterations.

8/11/03

3914/9.11.03

461/7-11-03

To the Dewan,
through the 2nd. Councillor.

From

Lt.-Colonel John Smyth M.D., I.M.S., J 409

Offg: Inspector General of Prisons in Mysore, 13

Bangalore.

To

H.V.Nanjundayya Esqr., M.A., M.L.

Secretary to the Government of Mysore,

General and Revenue Departments, Bangalore.

No. 1088 Encl. J

Dated 17th September 1903. 19

Sir,

Adverting to paras 3 and 5 of Government Proceedings No. 283-93/J dated 31st July 1903, reviewing the Report on the Administration of Jails and Lock-ups, for the Calendar year 1902, I have the honor to forward copies of letters Nos.244 & 355 dated 14th and 2nd September 1903 respectively from the Superintendents Bangalore Central and Mysore Jails on the question of the inutility of finger marks in identifying prisoners and to state that my impression is that the use of finger marks is not understood in the Police Department. Any one can make a finger mark but only a properly instructed intelligent Officer can compare it with another mark and say for certain whether or not it is identical with it.

2. It is useless going with the finger marks till such time as the Police Department shall have trained its officials in their interpretation.

3. I do not agree with the Superintendent Mysore Jail in his suggestion that prisoners are to be tattooed on their back.

4. A further report will be made in reply to para 3 of the Government order above quoted regarding the arrangements existing in the Bangalore and Mysore Jails for giving Juveniles some useful instruction.

The further report will be made in reply to para 3 of Pris. Sy G/1903 dated 31st

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

M.D.,

Lt.-Colonel I.M.S.,

Offg: Inspector General of Prisons.

1903. 1405/1

FROM
The Inspr.-Genl. of Prisons
in Mysore.

To
The Secy. to the Govt. of Mysore
Genl. & Rev. Deptt.
Bangalore.

Dated 17th September 1903.

Despatched 19— ———

Received

General No. 1088
No. 97

Enclosure No. 1.

Forwards the Inspector General's opinion re: the taking of finger marks of convicts.

Read
1919

Rec'd 5.30 P.M.
1919

From

The Superintendent

Central Jail, Bangalore.

To

The Inspector General of Prisons in Mysore,

Bangalore.

Dated 14th September 1903.

Despatched 15th ---do----

Received

General No.244
No.

Enclosure No.

Sir,

Adverting to your Memo No.972-73 dated 28-8-03, forwarding Government Proceedings No.282-93/J of 31st July 1903, I have the honor to state in reply:-

I. There is no arrangement existing in this Jail for giving Juveniles any useful instruction. They are sent here only for a very short time, average imprisonment being about 3 months and the number admitted during a year from 30 to 50; 47 being the number of admissions in 1902. It would be well if Juveniles throughout the State were sent to this Jail, and Magistrate directed to give them not less than one year. A school of instruction might then be opened at a trifling cost to Government.

II. Anent the question of identification of Habituals, I have to point out that 6/10th nearly of the Habituals that come into Jail are identified as such here; and as regards the other the Police have constantly made and do even now make application to this Office for records to identify certain prisoners. Were identification from finger impressions made by the Police, no reference need be made to this Office. During 1902, 143 Habituals were brought into Jail 37 by the Police and 27 admitted themselves to be so.

I have &ca,

(Signed) G.Hume Wright
Superintendent.

----------oooo--------

From

From

P.S.Achyuta Rao Esqr.,

Superintendent, Mysore Jail.

To

Lt.-Colonel J.Smyth M.D., I.M.S.,

Offg: Inspector General of Prisons in Mysore.

Dated 2nd September 1903.

Despatched 3rd-----do---

Received

General No.355
No.

Enclosure No. Nil

Sir,

In obedience to your No.972-73/J of the 28th Ultimo regarding the arrangements if any, that exist in this Jail for giving some useful instructions to Juveniles, I have the honor to report that there exist no special arrangements in as much as all male Juveniles that are sentenced for six months and over are required to be sent to the Bangalore Central Jail as laid down in Section 151 of the Jail Manual. The daily average Juvenile prisoners in the Jail for the past 5 calendar years has fallen below one.

What is being done now for such Juveniles as are admitted is (1) they are not sent out for out-door work but are told off for some medium work inside the Jail under the supervision of a trustworthy convict overseer or maistry (2) they are afforded every facilities to read and write if they are so inclined.

In regard to "Finger impressions" the practice that is now obtained is that convicts sentenced for offences under particular chapters of the Indian Penal Code are produced before the Police authorities who take finger impressions in the Jail. As to what they (the Police authorities) do with these impressions is not known to me. I have not observed the Police take finger impressions of all the accused persons whose examination may be pending before the Magistrate and verifying them with the records of any impressions in their possession when any difficulty

of identification is in the process of solution.

I may here, if permitted, make a suggestion and leave it to the Officiating Inspector General of Prisons to take it for what it may be worth. The suggestion being that convicts sentenc -ed under such sections as now necessitate taking finger impressions being tattooed on the back "J I", "J.II", "J.III", and so on. The operation of tattooing these small letters and Nos. I do not believe causes much pain and I am certain that the impressions cannot be tampered with. The convicts moreover will bear with them a wholesome dread of their shame being carried for ever on their backs.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) P.S.Achyuta Rao

Superintendent

Mysore Jail.

" C O P I E S "

M.D.,

Lt.-Colonel I.M.S.,

Offg: Inspector General of Prisons.

T.C.G.

Office Draft. (Docket.)

Mysore Government;
Secretariat, General & Revenue
Jud. Branch.

14

To

The Inspector General of Police in Mysore.

Date of passing the draft 3? ~~September~~ October 1903.
Date of despatch

Regd. No.
File No. & date (if any) 722

No. of Encls. one J

In inviting his attention to para 5 of Govt Proceedings No. 283-93 dated 31st July 1903, reviewing the report on the administration of Jails for the Calendar year 1902, has the honour to forward herewith an extract of paras 1 and 2 of letter No. 1088 dated the 17th September 1903, from the Offg Inspector General of Prisons in Mysore

Hyde submitting his views on the utility of
the finger-print system in connection with
identification of old offenders and
to request ~~the~~ to be furnished
with his opinion on the sub-
-ject.

By order

27/9/13

24/9/13 Secretary

SN
24/9/13

No 2387/9662/137

Office of the
Inspector General of Police in Mysore,
Dated, Bangalore, 24th October 1903.

From,

C. Madiah Esquire, Rao Bahadur,
Inspector General of Police in Mysore.

To,

H. V. Nanjundayya Esquire, M.A. M.L.,
Secretary to the Government of H.H.
the Maharaja of Mysore,
General and Revenue Department.

Sir,

With reference to your docket
No: 722 of the 3rd October 1903, I have
the honor to state that the Police
are sufficiently well trained for
taking finger impressions since
the slips received from the Districts
are in no way open to question.

The

the finger impressions of prisoners are the most important records for the Police Department, and it passes my understanding why these are considered unnecessary. There is a trained establishment attached to my office where all the classifying and tracing work is conducted, and so the Police Officers who take finger impressions, need not know the technicalities for tracing. When this branch of work is being developed to perfection in all the British Districts, an important Province like ours -- should not be behind hand in this matter. I may here add also

also that the opinion formed by the officiating Inspector General of Prisons has been done hastily & without making proper enquiry into the arrangement existing in my office. In course of time we might require a larger number of hands to work out the Department. Now as matters stand, 37 cards were traced during the year 1902-03 proving the identity of old offenders.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
your most obedient servant

T. Richardson
Inspector General of Police

16

Read again

Para 5 of Govt Order No. 283-93-J. of the 31st July 1903 (~~text~~ passed on review of the Prisons Report for 1902) calling for the views of the Inspector General of Prisons and Police about the improvement of the system of identifying criminals by means of finger impressions.

Read also —

Paras 1 to 3 of letter No. 1080 of the 17. Sept. 1903 from the Offg Insp. General of Prisons.

Letter No. 2387 of the 24th Octr. 1903 from the Inspector-General of Police.

1011-12 9/6/11/03
J. 1970304

Order thereon:

The Inspector-General of Prisons, having remarked, in the course of his report on Prisons for 1902, that the system of identification by means of finger prints was in vogue during the year but did not—

afford much assistance,
he was asked by Govt to
explain why this was so, and
both he and the Inspector General
of Police were requested to make
suggestions for the improvement
of the system.

Lt-Col Smyth (the Offg
Inspr General of Prisons) states
it as his impression that the
use of finger marks is not sufficiently
understood in the Police Dept, as only
a properly instructed intelligent
Officer can compare one mark
with another and speak with
certainty of their identity.
and that it is useless to continue
the system till such time as the Officials of
the Police Dept shall have been
properly trained in the interpretation
of marks.

The Inspector General of Police
agrees with the corrections of
the above opinion, adding
that there is a trained estab-
lishment attached to his
office where all the classifying
and tracing work is done, so
that a knowledge of the techni-
calities connected with tracing
is not necessary on the part
of the Police Officers who take
finger impressions

working of the

Though the Sys
tem which is yet in
an initial
stage may not be per
haps quite as accurate
as it would be in
a [illegible] Police
Force) Govt are
disposed to give
it the benefit of doubt
that even as it is
it is not wanting
in practical utility and
[illegible]

They are of opinion

Govt consider that
the latter view is more correct
and that there are no
grounds for believing that
the need of work
& perhaps done in this respect
by the Police Dept. is as
a whole too inaccurate
or wanting in
practical utility. They
fully agree in Rao Bahadur
Mr. Narahari's opinion that
too much weight cannot
be attached to the maintenance
and development of this
important branch of detective
work; and they have no doubt
that the subject will receive
the earnest attention
of [illegible]

[illegible]

13-11-13

To the Dy. of Police

Put up clean copy
this page &
with Govt
letter
13-11-13

13/11/13

10-11-13

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVT. OF H.H. THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

Read again:-

Para 5 of Government Order No.283-93-J dated the 31st July 1903 (passed on review of the Prisons Report for 1902) calling for the views of the Inspectors General of Prisons and Police anent the improvemnet of the system of identifying criminals by means of finger impressions.

Read also:-

Paras 1 to 3 of letter No.1088/J dated the17th Septr 1903, from the Offg. Inspector General of Prisons.

Letter No.2387/137 dated the 24th October 1903 from the Inspector General of Police.

ORDER THEREON NO.1011-12----DATED BANGALORE/6 NOVEMBER 1903.

The Inspector General of Prisons having remarked, in the course of his report on Prisons for 1902, that the system of identification by means of finger prints was in vogue during the year but did not afford much assistance, he was asked by Government to explain why this was so, and both he and the Inspector General of Police were requested to make suggestions for the improvemant of the system.

Lt. Col. Smyth (the Offg. Inspector General of Prisons) states it as his impression that the use of finger marks is not sufficiently understood in the Police Department, as only a properly instructed intelligent officer can compare one mark with another and speak with a certainty of their identity and that it is useless to continue the system till such time as the officials of the Police Department shall have been properly trained in the interpretation of marks.

The Inspector General of Police does not admit the correct-ness of the above view, adds that there is a trained establishment attached to his office where all the classifying and tracing work is done, so that a knowledge of the technicalities connected with tracing is not necessary on the part of the Police officers

officers who take finger impressions.

Though the working of the system which is yet in an initial stage may not be perfect, Government are disposed to think that even as it is, it is not wanting in practical utility and they are of opinion that too much weight cannot be attached to the maintenance and development of this important branch of detective work; and they have no doubt that the subject will receive the earnest attention of the Inspector General of Police.

T.R.

For Secretary.

To

The Inspector General of Police in Mysore.

The Inspector General of Prisons in Mysore.